

TO: Academic, Research and Extension Administrators  
1890 Universities and Tuskegee University  
1994 Institutions  
U.S. Territories  
The District of Columbia  
Presidents, Hispanic Serving Institutions

FROM: Charles W. Laughlin  
Administrator

SUBJECT: 2000 CSREES Fellows Program

The Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) of the Department of Agriculture (USDA) is pleased to continue the Fellows Program in 2000. This Program offers faculty and staff affiliated with designated land-grant universities the opportunity to work and study with Federal staff in Washington, D.C., during the summer.

The program was first established in 1992 for Cooperative Extension staff in all 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, Tuskegee University, and the Land-Grant Institutions in American Samoa, the District of Columbia, Guam, Micronesia, Northern Marianas, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Personnel at the eligible institutions (noted above) affiliated with food and agricultural sciences (including agriculture, forestry and natural resources, family and consumer sciences, veterinary science, and closely allied fields) in research, extension, teaching, international programs, and libraries are eligible. Any faculty and staff member affiliated with these institutions may apply, including those who applied in previous years and were not selected. Nominations are also welcomed. Since the Program's inception, 38 individuals have each spent up to 3 months in Washington, D.C., working on short-term projects in collaboration with a USDA advisor/mentor.

The CSREES Fellows Program reflects USDA's commitment to advancing its relationship with participating institutions and enhancing the capacity of their programs and staff. By enhancing Fellows' professional growth, the Program strengthens the quality of the land-grant programs. The CSREES Fellows Program is consistent with the President's Executive Orders 12320 and 12321 to help strengthen Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and Tribal Colleges and

Directors, et al.

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Hispanic Serving Universities and fosters workforce diversity. The Department has recognized the Program and is emulating it with a program for the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities.

While in Washington, D.C., the Fellows will receive an orientation designed for this program and are expected to work on projects relevant to their interests and Agency needs in collaboration with a USDA advisor/mentor.

To support the Fellows, CSREES will furnish travel expenses to and from Washington, D.C., per diem expenses (\$23 for meals and incidentals), lodging, plus daily commuting costs. CSREES also provides each Fellow with an office, secretarial support, computer training, and opportunities for professional development. During the Fellows Program, the sending institution will continue to pay salary and benefits. CSREES will be able to support approximately five fellows during the 2000 period.

Attached for distribution to your staff, as appropriate, are: (a) The FY 2000 CSREES Fellows Program Announcement, which provides details about the program; (b) an application form; and (c) application procedures. **Applications and nominations are due by March 30, 2000.**

A letter of concurrence and support from the applicant's Director, Administrator, or President must accompany the application. Applications will be reviewed by a Selection Panel, and applicants will be selected on the basis of individual interests and the needs of sending institutions and CSREES.

Attachments

cc: CSREES Executive Council  
CSREES Fellows Committee  
CSREES NPL's

CSREES:Partnerships:GCooper:mm:12-17-99:720-5623